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East Timor second highest war deaths

East Timor has the "gory distinction" of having the second highest war casualties in the world, listing from 100,000 to 250,000 dead since 1975, according to " A World at War - 1983 ", published by the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Defense Information.

But aside from military encounters, the Indonesian government, whose army invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975, has another way of systematically decimating East Timor's population.

This is through what seemed to be a dubious birth control program which uses contraceptives previously banned in the U.S.

According to a report of Portuguese journalist Rui Araujo quoted by "Tapol",East Timorese women are being injected with Depo Provera, a contraceptive that has been banned in the U.S. because of its potentially dangerous side-effects.

Mr. Araujo wrote:

" The population do not welcome this initiative at all. They regard family planning as a menace, as something that goes against the values and convictions of the Timorese people. They have a deep love of children.Families with fewer than ten are the exception, but this does not mean that Timor is over-populated."

There are other means by which the Indonesian government is allegedly trying to "get rid" of the people of East Timor.

The same Portuguese journalist reported that during a visit he made to the Atauro prison island early this year, some prisoners kept whispering to him : " They are trying to get rid of us. "

One East Timorese prisoner succeeded in secretly handing over to the visiting journalist a crumpled paper which contained a list of 116 people who disappeared in Lospalos and have not been heard since 1980.

And in a way, Canada, as some quarters alleged, supports this reported genocide.

While in the previous years, Canada abstained from voting, since 1980 it has voted against United Nations resolutions supporting East Timor's right to self-determination.

Canada also thumbed down U. N. humanitarian measures such as a resolution in November, 1980 which deplored the continued suffering of the Timorese people and called for U.N. agencies to render all possible assistance particularly to children.

Undernourished Timorese children

In November 15, 1982, it also registered a vote against another resolution requesting the U.N. Secretary-General to initiate consultations with all parties directly concerned with East Timor and calling on various U.N. organizations to aid the people there.

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